

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 29, 2017

General Robin Rand
AFGSC/CC
245 Davis Ave East
Barksdale Air Force Base, LA 71110

Dear General Rand,

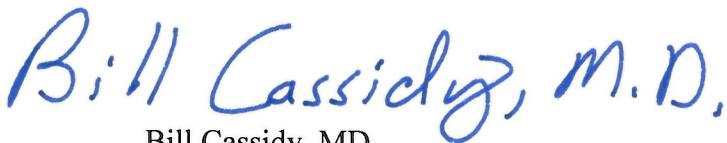
We are writing today in response to the news that the Barksdale Air Force Base Air Show will no longer be held annually. We encourage you in the strongest terms to reconsider the decision to change the frequency of the Air Show from annually to every other year.

Since it was first held in 1932, the Barksdale Air Force Base Air Show has played a significant role in developing public support and enthusiasm for aviation, helping to inspire a new generation of pilots and building support and enthusiasm for the U.S. Air Force and its programs. Allowing the public to see and experience U.S. Air Force operations up close instills a sense of great pride and patriotism that can only come from seeing U.S. Air Force aircraft in action.

The Barksdale Air Force Base Air Show is not only a showcase for the U.S. Air Force but also a massive economic driver for Louisiana. The show attracts over 150,000 visitors a year, with out-of-town visitors contributing millions in direct spending to the local economy, and tens of millions downstream of that. The benefits that come from holding an annual Air Show are many, and are significant.

We believe that any decisions that would have a significant impact on the great success this annual event generates should be stayed until there can be a dialogue to consider both the benefits and ramifications to all stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, MD
United States Senate



Ralph Abraham, MD
Member of Congress



John Kennedy
United States Senate



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress